

and while closed during retraction of the animal the spaces between the palatal plicæ are sufficient to admit air for breathing purposes. This peculiar sliding action of the clausilium I have not seen referred to by any previous author,<sup>1</sup> which may possibly be explained by the fact that the species which have served as a basis of investigation are rather small, and their examination is consequently somewhat difficult. This difficulty may be overcome by utilizing some of the larger Japanese forms—such as *C. martensi*, Herkl., and *C. valida*, Pfr. Five species belonging to the Palæarctic subgenus *ALOPTA* are without clausilium.

This completes our survey of the various groups of land mollusca furnished with armature.

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NOTE ON *XYLOPHAGA PRÆSTANS*, SMITH.

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Read 12th March, 1920.

THIS species was described in these "Proceedings" (vol. v, p. 328). I am now able to give more definite details as to its habitat, and the following notes are written by Capt. J. H. Walker, the master of a trawler, who was the original discoverer, in a letter received 28th October, 1919:—

"I have taken this shell off the Durham and Northumberland coast in various depths of water from 25 to 45 fathoms on five or six occasions, and always on pitchpine logs or masts that had been a long time in the water. I used to split the wood with wedges and take the shell out alive and keep it alive in water for several days.

"I noticed the animal was white with a fairly long siphon. I kept them in a 2 lb. glass jam-jar filled with water, and the animals could reach the surface of the water (about 4 inches), except the very smallest.

"I found they always bored across the grain of the wood in a perpendicular direction, and the larger the shell the deeper the cavity.

"On the top surface of the log or mast there was nothing to indicate the presence of shells except a number of very small holes like pin-holes.

"My largest specimens are fully  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches in diameter, whilst my largest *X. dorsalis* is only  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter. I always found *X. dorsalis* in hard wood, oak, elm, or teak.

"Some of the largest specimens of *X. præstans* had bored  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches into the wood (by actual measurement). The animals are phosphorescent at night."

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<sup>1</sup> I first drew attention to this fact in the *Fauna of British India, Mollusca*, vol. ii, 1914, p. 304, and my observations on that occasion have here been embodied.